

A great loss

Duxbury mourns death of Holy Family's Monsignor Glynn

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Last Friday, Duxbury lost a well-respected and widely admired priest who had served the archdiocese and the town of Duxbury for many years.

Monsignor William F. Glynn served his church and the community throughout his life and even well into his



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90s when he was a resident at the Village of Duxbury. When asked about Msgr. Glynn, most Duxbury residents have at least one memory of his impact on their lives. It spans from, "he baptized me... and my children," to "he married us" and everything in between.

Msgr. Glynn grew up in the Boston area to Irish parents. He was the second child and had a brother, Michael, and a sister, Mary. The family experienced tough times and moved from Cambridge to Dorchester and eventually landed in Milton. He attended Boston Latin School, spent two years at Boston College and eventually entered St. John's Seminary in Brighton.

Msgr. Glynn was ordained on May 1, 1947. His first assignment was at St. Mary's in Beverly. He spent four years there and then went to St. Mary's in Wrentham, spent six months at the mission office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in Boston, 20 years at St. Catherine's in Somerville and then moved to St. Gregory's in Dorchester in 1978.

In the fall of 1981, Msgr. Glynn came to Holy Family in Duxbury, where he remained until his retirement 26 years later. At the time, the church was located where the Ellison Center for the Arts now stands. A push to build a new church and donations from many people around town

made it possible for the new Holy Family Church to open in 1988.

Msgr. Glynn retired in 2007 at 85 years old and moved to The Village. He celebrated masses at The Village on holy days and occasionally officiated at funerals in the community.

After retirement, Msgr. Glynn spent a lot of time with Mary DiCenzo and her family. DiCenzo worked as Msgr. Glynn's administrative assistant for many years and over time Glynn became part of Di-Cenzo's family. He was so important to the Dicenso family, in fact, that they named their dogs after him and his ancestral town in Ireland.

"He was a very dedicated priest who put his parishioners above everything," DiCenzo said. "He was the last living member of his family here, so he became part of my family. He would come over every Sunday at 4 o'clock for dinner and to watch sports."

A big sports fan, DiCenzo said Msgr. Glynn would fly a Red Sox flag every season, hoping for a World Series victory. The flag was flying at the church on Tuesday in his honor. "He was a baseball player as a youngster, so he was always at the Duxbury baseball games," DiCenzo said. "He was a big supporter of Duxbury sports and always went to the Thanksgiving football games as well." Msgr. Glynn spent many years as the Duxbury Fire Department Chaplain. Fire Chief Kevin Nord said the department was saddened by the news of his death. "He was very important to us here at Duxbury Fire and we will obviously have the honor guard and other members at his services," Nord said. Fire Captain Brian Monahan joined the Duxbury Fire Department in 2000 and said Msgr. Glynn was considered a part of the department long before he was official the department's chaplain.

"In the days and weeks after Sept. 11, 2001, he was a big part of helping us get through that time," Monahan said. "He also blessed helmets for new firefighters." Monahan said Msgr. Glynn was a humble man who was soft spoken and often very brief in his services. "Any time we would call him he would wear his honors on his coat proudly and was a man of few words," Monahan said. The fire department held an official ceremony for Msgr.

Glynn in 2006 and gave him a badge certifying that he was the department's official Chaplain.

"He certainly helped many people in this community," Monahan said. "Whatever you needed him for, he was there."

DiCenzo said Msgr. Glynn was a faithful leader who worked tirelessly to help those in the community. He will be laid to rest at 10 a.m. on Thursday in Mayflower Cemetery.

"We are going to miss him so much," she said.